REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 16-18, and 26-52 have been cancelled. Claims 53-60 are new. Claims 2, 4-15, 19-25, and 53-60 are pending.

Claims 2-5, and 18-20, were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kedem (6,477,624). Claims 7-8, 12-13, 15-16, 21-23, and 27, were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kedem in view of Han (5,991,542).

The new claims 53, 56, 58 and 59 recite:

intercepting sector-based I/O requests directed to the simulated source disk and retrieving source disk data from the source disk according to the intercepted sector-based I/O requests such that contents of the source disk in the first computer are extracted at the sector level and system software in the first computer need not detect the file system of the source disk; and

populating a destination image in the destination disk of the second computer with the contents of the source disk such that the destination image has a different sector-by-sector content than the source disk but a destination file system logically equivalent to the source file system.

Kedem teaches a system that addresses the problem of allowing for centralized storage and maintenance of each user's personalized computer environment, referred to as the user's "persistent storage device data image," which had traditionally been stored in the hard disk of each user's personal computer. (Kedem at 1:17-30.) The user's persistent storage device data image contains the user's operating system, software applications, data files and any additional customization by the user. (Kedem at 1:25-38.) In the system of Kedem, the user's persistent storage device data image at a remote computer, is referred to as the remote persistent storage device (RPSD). (Kedem at 3:49-55.) The system taught by Kedem also includes a data image management system (DIMS), which "completely de-couples a persistent storage device data

image 'seen' by the computer from a persistent storage device attached to the computer (also referred to as the local persistent storage device (LPSD))." (Kedem at 3:32-35.) The DIMS includes both a local data image manager (LDIM), which is installed on the user's computer and a remote data image manager (RDIM) which can store and retrieve data from the remote persistent storage device (RPSD). (Kedem at 3:38-40.) The LDIM communicates with the RDIM through a direct communication link or through a network. (Kedem at 8:28-23.) The LDIM includes a miniboot driver that either resets the BIOS disk geometry table to the geometry of the selected master disk image on the RPSD or emulates the geometry of the selected image. (Kedem at 8:64-9:4.)

Neither resetting the BIOS disk geometry table to the geometry of the selected master disk image nor emulating the geometry of the selected image as taught by Kedem is the same as "populating the destination image in the destination disk of the second computer with the contents of the source disk such that the destination image has a different sector-by-sector content than the source disk but a destination file system logically equivalent to the source file system." Further, Kedem, does not teach "intercepting sector-based I/O requests directed to the simulated source disk and retrieving source disk data from the source disk according to the intercepted sector-based I/O requests such that contents of the source disk in the first computer are extracted at the sector level and system software in the first computer need not detect the file system of the source disk."

Han teaches a method for using disk images to disseminate large quantities of data. (Han at 3:27-29.) The method taught by Han creates a disk image, mounts the disk image at an individual computer and then users can copy its contents to their local disk drives to install software. (Han 7:46-48.) The disk image taught by Han "comprises logical blocks containing the information that is normally associated with a physical volume, i.e. system startup information, volume information, and a volume bitmap, in addition to the actual data of the file itself." (Han at 5:12-21.) Han, however, also does not teach, "intercepting sector-based I/O requests directed to the simulated source disk and retrieving source disk data from the source disk according to the intercepted sector-based I/O requests such that contents of the source disk in the first computer are extracted at the sector level and system software in the first computer need not detect the file system of the source disk."

Therefore, new claims 53, 56, 58 and 59 are neither anticipated by Kedem, nor rendered obvious by the combination of Kedem and Han, and it is believed that claims 53, 56, 58, and 59 are allowable. Claims 2, 4-15, 54 and 55 depend from claim 53, and are therefore, believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above. Claims 19-25 depend from claim 58, and are therefore, believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above. Claim 57 depends from claim 56, and is therefore, believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above. Claim 60 depends from claim 59, and is therefore, believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

The new claims are not to be construed as an admission of the unpatentability of the previously presented claims.

Support for the new claims 53-60 may be found in the specification without limitation at P:0167-P:0188.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present Application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowability. Should any issues arise in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted:

Date:_____November 20, 2009_____   By:_____/Darryl A. Smith/_____
                                                Darryl A. Smith
                                                Reg. No. 37,723
                                                Attorney for Applicants

3401 Hillview Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94304
Tel.: (650) 427-1049